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Title: Need to create a new Railway zone in Kerala.

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP (KOLLAM): Railway network in Kerala needs widening and modernization. The electrification and doubling up work of the railway lines in Kerala is at a very slow pace. The railway coaches and engines of Kerala bound trains are outdated and very old. Toilets of the coaches are in a dilapidated condition and window glasses are missing in many coaches. Windows do not close properly. Air condition system of many of the coaches does not work properly and it results in malfunctioning many a time. The food served in the trains is not only of inferior quality but also less than the required quantity. The blankets and bed sheets are not regularly washed/dry cleaned before re-issuing the same.

In spite of the above, reservation is not available even if the same is done months in advance. The reason is that people have no other option but to depend upon the Indian Railways for long as well as short distance journey.

Keeping in view the above, it is requested to consider the long pending demand of the State for creation of a Railway Zone in Kerala. It can be made possible by including certain portion of the railways from the neighbouring States. It is needless to mention that such a step for creation of a new Railway Zone in Kerala would help developing the income of railways and improve the quality and network of railways in the State.

I, therefore, request Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take urgent steps for creation of a new Railway Zone in Kerala.